DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

VOL. I NO. 8 APRIL 25th 1952 Price: 15 Pf., 5 c., 3 d

Strike Call Against War Pact

German Soldiers Quit

Well over one hundred young Germans who had been fighting in the French Foreign Legion in Vietnam against the patriot forces have returned to Berlin via the Chinese People's Republic and the Soviet Union, the East German government announced.

Some of the men had been captured by the Vietnam forces, but very many had surrendered voluntarily, after they had read leaflets in German which reproduced the appeal of the government of the German Democratic Republic calling on them to stop fighting and return home.

RUHR WORKERS' WARNING

Two thousand foundry workers in the great Ruhr steel works of Hagen-Haspe have called for an immediate stoppage of work throughout West Germany if Adenauer signs the "Contractual Agreement" with the western powers. The signature is scheduled for the middle of May.

From dozens of other key factories came news of preparations for strike action to stop the separate war pact with the west.

Mannheim metal workers appealed to the West German trade unions, the Social Democrats and the Communists to meet to coordinate measures against the Contractual Agreement, known in Germany as the "General Treaty".

In East Germany workers in many factories overfulfilled their production norms by a wide margin as a sign of solidarity with their West German colleagues in the fight for a peace treaty.

EAST GERMANY'S 600 MILLION DOLLAR EXPORT BID

Moscow Conference Spurs West German Industrialists

East Germany is ready and able to increase its import-export trade by 600,000,000 dollars in the next two or three years, Victor Sandmann, director of the world-famous Zeiss Optical Works at Jena, now nationally owned, told journalists after his return from the World Economic Conference in Moscow.

Articles available for export included scientific instruments, office machines, phosphates and many other articles.

The East German delegation was able to report the conclusion of a number of successful trade agreements at the conference. Textiles, shoes and other goods to a value of two million pounds will be imported from Britain, in exchange for typewriters, films and cameras; Holland will send East Germany tobacco, cocoa and herrings valued at five million dollars and receive sugar, paper and glassware; and France will supply ten million dollar's worth of rolled steel products, wool and wine, receiving in exchange pit-props, printing machines and musical instruments.

Preliminary trade conversations were held between East German representatives and delegates from dozens of other countries including Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, Israel, Canada and Burma.

The 22 West German businessmen who attended the conference were deeply impressed by Soviet offers of a trade exchange with West Germany valued at two thousand million roubles.

As a direct result of this offer the Foreign Policy Committee of the Bonn Federal Parliament demanded on April 17th that West Germany should be granted freedom of trade with eastern Europe and Asia, and many West German newspapers representing commercial interests called for a strengthening of trade with the east.

The "Industrie Kurier" stated: "The nations of the western block are now getting a foothold in eastern markets which both traditionally and geographically are a natural German market."

The "Kieler Nachrichten", Christian Democratic newspaper, stated: "The time has come to allow the Federal government to decide what to export. We must have the same rights as other states if we are not to be hopelessly defeated in the world market."

Great impetus in the fight against the western war pact and in favour of a peace treaty was given by the second Soviet note on a peace treaty, main points of which are given on page 7 of this issue.

During the second half of April the government of the German Democratic Republic and the Socialist Unity Party both issued manifestos calling upon all patriots to act now in favour of a peace treaty and for German unity. Extracts from the two manifestos are given on page 2.

East German Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht summed up the case against the General Treaty in a speech in Berlin:

"This General Treaty would give the western powers the right to erect what military bases they like in West Germany, to introduce martial law, to control the West German police, and to suspend the citizens' rights laid down in the Bonn Constitution.

"This General Treaty would mean the revival of aggressive German militarism, it would mean preparations for a military dictatorship and the use of military forces against the workers.

(continued on p. 2)

(from page 1)

"This General Treaty would mean that West Germany would be converted into the main war base of the Americans in Europe, and ultimately the introduction of the scorched earth policy in West Germany.

"Adenauer declares, like Hitler used to declare, that military strength will force other nations to submit. This allegedly 'Christian' Chancellor uses in effect the highwayman's slogan: Your territory or your life.

"Only common action by the workers and all peace-loving forces can lead to a peaceful solution of the German problem. That is why the people must be mobilised to struggle for a peace treaty and against the General Treaty."

MANIFESTO

Here are the main points of the manifesto issued on April 18th by the government of the German Democratic Republic:

It is well known that the parties in East and West Germany, the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic and the Bonn Federal Parliament have expressed their wish for free elections in the whole of Germany. This means that it must be possible to hold such elections. For this purpose the most important thing is to reach agreement among Germans on an all-German election law, and to overcome all difficulties preventing such an agreement.

The question of the U. N. Investigating Commission must not be allowed to become an obstacle. It has long been clear that the U. N. Commission was not created to carry out free all-German elections, but to prevent them. Even leading members of the parties which make up the Bonn government have stated recently that such intervention in internal German affairs is illegal.

The cabinet of the German Democratic Republic therefore emphasises: The position is extremely serious, and time is short.

The hour of action for German unity in peace and liberty has struck.

The patriotic resistance movement in West Germany and the democratic state in the German Democratic Republic must be strong and resolute, ready to meet and frustrate the deceitful plans of the enemies of Germany.

The government of the German Democratic Republic calls upon all German patriots to fight for the salvation of the nation and to unite for a new life in peace, liberty and prosperity.

Socialist Unity Party Appeal:

ADENAUER MUST GO

Today there is still time to bring the two halves of Germany together in a peaceful manner, stated the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party in an appeal addressed to all German patriots on April 16th.

Main points of the appeal were:

"The Adenauer government in West Germany is using all possible methods of sabotaging a peace treaty and all-German elections, and has shown itself to be an enemy of peace and German unity.

"All supporters of peace and unity must therefore draw their conclusions before it is too late, and **force the resignation of the warmongering Adenauer government.**

"In this serious situation the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party addresses itself in all earnestness to the members and the leadership of the Social Democratic Party in West Germany.

"Schumacher and Ollenhauer *(Social Democratic leaders, ed.)* claim to be opponents of the policy of the General Treaty and the European army, but at the same time they allow Reuter *(West Berlin Lord Mayor, ed.)* and Fette and vom Hoff *(West German trade union bosses, ed.)* to give open support to Adenauer's policy of remilitarisation.

"All those who are honestly opposed to remilitarisation and the General War Treaty must act now. The decisive workers' weapon of trade union organisation and of the strike must be used.

"We appeal to the Social Democratic, Communist, Christian and non-party workers in West Germany: take the next step and go on from the short warning strikes already held to mass strikes against remilitarisation and the General Treaty, for unity in peace and liberty, and for your urgent social demands.

"We appeal to the workers, peasants and intellectuals to combine in great demonstrations against the General War Treaty and in favour of a peace treaty with Germany.

"Down with remilitarisation! Adenauer must go!

"We appeal to men, women and young people in the German Democratic Republic and the Democratic Sector of Berlin to give their answer to the ruinous policy of the Bonn government by taking new steps to support our progressive democratic order.

"The aggressive declarations made by Adenauer, Hallstein *(West German Foreign State Secretary, ed.)* and the American warmongers about the German Democratic Republic **make it the patriotic duty of every citizen to show the greatest vigilance** ... in the fight against spies, saboteurs and destructive elements.

"The great achievements of the workers, peasants, technicians and scientists in the work of peaceful construction and in the fulfillment of the great Five Year Plan help to strengthen the entire German people.

"We appeal to Germans in both the east and the west of our homeland to unite in the struggle for peace and unity, for a new life in prosperity and happiness."

"Church should mediate": Bishop Dibelius

The Protestant and Catholic Churches could mediate in Germany in order to bring about all-German discussions on free democratic elections, Otto Dibelius, Evangelical Bishop of Berlin and chairman of the Council of the German Evangelical Church proposed at a meeting in Dortmund.

Greeting the proposals made by the Soviet Union for discussions on a peace treaty with Germany, Bishop Dibelius said:

"We believe that such negotiations should begin now, without regard to the fact that there may be unsolved political questions in both east and west."

The Bishop's proposal was greeted by East German Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht, who recalled, however, that certain representatives of the Evangelical Church had given their support to West German Chancellor Adenauer and his militaristic plans. Herr Ulbricht called upon the church to criticise such acts openly.

D. P's don't want war

American recruiting sergeants have only managed to persuade 220 displaced persons living in West Germany to join the United States army in a year of effort, an army spokesman disclosed.

When the scheme started one year ago, the Americans were confident that they could easily get 12,500 men, but the spokesman admitted that so few people had applied, and the quality of applicants was so low that he doubted whether even one tenth of this number would ever be recruited.

94 PERCENT OPPOSE REMILITARISATION

Final plebiscite report

Over 94 percent of all West Germans questioned rejected the remilitarisation of Germany, the German Plebiscite Committee established in January 1951 stated in its final report.

Despite the ban imposed by the West German authorities, 6,267,302 people in West Germany and West Berlin were asked the question "Are you opposed to the remilitarisation of Germany, and in favour of a peace treaty with Germany in 1951?"

5,917,683 or 94.41 percent of the total gave their votes against remilitarisation. Similar percentage votes against a new Wehrmacht were obtained from some three million other West Germans who were questioned at mass meetings and not individually.

An indication of the obstacles which had to be overcome in collecting these votes is given by the fact that the Plebiscite Committee has records of a total of 8781 police actions against plebiscite helpers. 7331 persons were arrested, and more than one thousand court cases resulted.

Particularly significant results were obtained in arms factories. In a special one-day action 12,309 workers at the great Krupp Steel Works in Essen were questioned, and no fewer than 11,921 went on record against rearmament.

In the German Democratic Republic the plebiscite was carried out with full official support, and 95.84 percent of those participating replied affirmatively.

The report states that the experience of the plebiscite has clearly shown that Adenauer is not authorised to speak in the name of the people of West Germany.

"The wishes of the German people are expressed in the results of the plebiscite," the report states. "The German people want a peace treaty and a relationship of peace and friendship with all nations. They have no desire for remilitarisation and rearmament."

Black flag on seized fields

The farmers of Augustdorf, near Detmold, British Zone, demonstrated with black flags, the old sign of the medieval peasants revolts, when British tanks destroyed their fields during spring manouevres.

Some 500 acres of freshly sown land belonging to 60 peasants was ploughed up by the tanks.

They "Heil Rommel" in Egypt

Dozens of nazi war criminals, including at least six generals, are back on active service again training King Farouk's army in Egypt, according to boastful articles which have appeared in the West German press.

The recruiting campaign for Egypt is organised by General Wilhelm Farmbacher, who lives in Cairo at No. 9, Sharia el Askar. It is perhaps only a coincidence that this means "Street of the Soldier".

General Frambacher was chief of the central weapon department of the nazi army, and later corps commander in France. Until 1950 he was serving a war criminal sentence in a French prison.

Frambacher's "recruiting sergeant" is Colonel Hans Mueller, former staff officer in Rommel's army, who has become a Moslem and likes to be known as Hanak Hassim Bey. During the winter months Colonel Mueller toured West Germany, recruiting tank and parachute experts for the armies of Egypt and other Middle Eastern states.

Other high-ranking officers serving with the Egyptian army, according to the newsmagazine "Spiegel", published in the British Zone, include:

Major General Oskar Munzel, tank expert and divisional commander on the eastern front.

General von Ravenstein, former commander of light division No. 99 in Rommel's Afrika Korps.

General von Prittwitz.

General Weinberg.

General Mendl.

A group of naval experts, who concentrate upon the development of frog-men and one-man submarines, is headed by Captain Theodor Freiherr von Bechtolsheim and Captain Wormser.

Other prominent nazis in the group include Dr Voss, former director-general of the Skoda armaments works in Czechoslovakia, and Herr Deltgen, of the Central Weapon Department of the Wehrmacht.

Latest recruits for the new "Afrika Korps" which is in process of formation, were Lieutenant Siegfried Heuke, of 26 Bleicherstrasse, Bremen (American Zone), and Lieutenant Heinz Richter, of 11 Hennebergstrasse, Bad Gandersheim (British Zone). On April 2nd 1952 the two men, former instructors in a parachute troop school, left Hamburg aboard a KLM Dutch plane for Egypt, where they will take up their old jobs again.

Dancing on May Day

Berliners in the East Sector will dance in the open air, and see special entertainments on 70 squares and open spaces on May First, International Labour Day.

The dancing will be the culmination of a day of celebration in which people from all parts of Berlin will demonstrate together for German unity and a speedy peace treaty on the great Marx-Engels-Platz, formerly site of Kaiser Wilhelm's Palace.

Dozens of resolutions have come in from trade union groups in West Berlin urging that citizens from both halves of the city should join forces for the traditional demonstration.

In many towns in West Germany all workers' parties and unions have agreed to hold joint demonstrations. In Stuttgart (American Zone), the Trades Council has called for a joint May Day Demonstration for German unity and a peace treaty.

Soviet machines to rebuild Berlin

Giant Soviet cranes, earth-shifting machinery, and other labour saving equipment will soon arrive in Berlin to be used in the great programme for rebuilding the capital, it is officially announced.

In the first one hundred days of the voluntary rubble clearance work in the East Sector of Berlin a total of 458,087 three-hour shifts were worked, and 270,000 cubic yards of rubble were cleared away. Nearly fifteen million bricks, 600 tons of girders, and 2600 tons of scrap metal were salvaged from the ruins.

A squad of Polish bricklayers, visiting Germany for the Polish-German friendship celebrations, worked a special shift on the great East Berlin housing project, showing their German colleagues new methods developed during the record-breaking rebuilding of Warsaw.

Holidays abroad for workers

Nearly 500 outstanding workers from key factories in the German Democratic Republic will spend their holidays at trade union holiday homes in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland.

The same number of Polish, Hungarian and Czechoslovakian workers will take their holidays in East Germany.

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT
April 25th 1952

West Germany's Military Potential

Atlantic Pact Forces

Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Forces in Europe (Paris)

Commander in Chief:
General Dwight Eisenhower (US)

Chief of General Staff:
General Alfred Gruenther (US)

North Atlantic Council plans: European Army of 50 divisions, including 12 West German divisions

Allied High Commission

Petersberg, near Bonn, West Germany

USA: John J. McCloy
Great Britain: Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick
France: Andre Francois-Poncet

West Ger... Federal Government

Federal C...llor Konrad Adenauer
Chr... Democratic Party

Deputy ...cellor Franz Bluecher
F...mocratic Party

Former German Supreme Command

General Franz Halder
Colonel General
Heinz Guderian

Brotherhood (Bruderschaft)

Tank General Hasso von Manteuffel
Colonel Helmuth Beck-Broichsitter

Soldier's Associations

Admiral Gottfried Hansen, General Ludwig Cruewell, SS-General Herbert Gille, Lieutenant General August Krakau, Colonel General Hans Juergen Stumpf, Parachute General Bernhard Gerhard Ramcke, Lieutenant General Kurt Student, Colonel General Hans Friessner

Occupation Troops

US Headquarters: Heidelberg
Brit. Headquarters: Wahnerheide
Fr. Headquarters: Baden-Baden

400,000 men = 14 divisions at war strength, comprising

- 6 US divisions
- 4 British divisions
- 3 French divisions
- 1 mixed division (Canadian, Belgian, Dutch, Norwegian and Danish troops)

German-Allied Security Committee (Bonn)

Representatives of the High Commissioners and the Occupation troops

German Representatives:
Theodor Blank
Dr. Hans Egidi
Lieutenant General Hans Speidel
Lieutenant General Adolf Heusinger

Office For Accomodating Occupation Troops (Department Blank)

Theodor Blank, Christian Democratic Party
Lieutenant General Hans Speidel
Lieutenant General Adolf Heusinger
Colonel Axel von Busche
Colonel Achim Oster
General Count Joh. Adolf Kielmannsegg
Colonel Ernst Ostermann
and 30 other staff officers

Tasks: Preparing remilitarisation, providing accomodation for occupation troops, maintaining liaison with the High Commission, supervising West German transport and communications system from military viewpoint

Fe... Ministry for...ign Affairs

Chance...nrad Adenauer
Secretary
Professo...f Hallstein

Carries o...tions on integration of West Ger...s in European Army (Pleven P...

Federal Ministry of the Interior

Minister: Dr Robert Lehr, Christian Democratic Union
Secretary of State: Ritter von Lex
Head of Security Department: Dr Hans Egidi

Tasks: Police reinforcement, formation of the Mobile Police (Bereitschaftspolizei), preparation of the conscription law, air raid precautions law, and atom precautions law

"Fuehrungstab"

(Leadership staff of the Social Democratic Opposition)

Major Alfred Gleisner

Germans in Allied "Labour Units"

American Zone:
LSCO (Labour Service Companies)
Commander: Tank General Erich Brandenberger
Strength: . . . . . 80,000 men

British Zone:
GSO (German Service Organisation)
Commander: General Count Gerhard Schwerin
Strength: . . . . . 70,000 men

French Zone:
FAMOT (Formations auxiliares de main d'ouevre et de transport)
Commander: Major Horst von Wangenheim
Strength: . . . . . 14,000 men

Total 164,000 men

West German Wehrmacht

Planned: War Ministry
General Staff
Selective Service, with 18 months service term

Cadre Troops . . . . . 100,000 men
Elite Troops selected from 1,250,000 men called up . . . . . 400,000 men
Total 500,000 men

Formations:
12 motorised divisions (2220 tanks)
Tactical airforce (1700 planes, 75,000 men)
Navy (Torpedo boats, MTBs and mine-sweepers)

Cost: Equipment 24,000 mill. marks, plus annual "Defence Contribution" of between 9,000 and 13,000 million marks

Police

General West German Police	87,266 men
General West Berlin Police	13,900 men
Provincial Mobile Police, West Germany, motorised and living in barracks	11,624 men
West Berlin Mobile Police	3,000 men
Provincial Frontier Police	5,000 men
Federal Frontier Guards (1951 Budget Figures)	10,119 men

(this figure includes 540 men in the Federal Marine Police. Federal Frontier Guards are in process of rapid expansion to first target figure of 20,000, later target of 90,000)

Commanders:
General Gerhard Matzky (Bonn)
General Herbert Giese (Hanover)
Major General Hans Bruhn (Luebeck)
General Anton Grasser (Stadtsteinach)

The facts, names and figures given in the plan on these pages are intended to give a picture of the stage already reached in the remilitarisation of West Germany as part of the North Atlantic Pact forces. The plan also shows the way in which the West German forces are linked with the western occupation forces

HAVING A BABY IN BERLIN

By Eva Brueck

Dear Mabel,

Since I last wrote to you, we have followed your example and have added a son to our family.

The things you read in your papers about East Berlin seem to have upset you quite considerably. You seemed so worried about us, that I feel I must sit down straight away and tell you a little about this "miserable, terrorised" life we are living.

In the first place, I can assure you, that we not only have good films and theatres, and things like that, but that we have plenty to eat and to wear, and an adequate flat.

In all the years that we were married in England we were glad to be without children. No proper home, no fixed income, rising prices, increasing shortages and always the threat of a new war on the horizon who would want to add the burden of a baby to all that! I only have to look at your letter to know what it must be like!

EQUAL RIGHTS

Here in East Germany, where you apparently think we are oppressed and tyrannised, women have the same rights as men. That means that we get equal pay for equal work. Our right to work is guaranteed by the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic. Besides this, there is a system of financial help for young mothers, we receive children's allowances and the benefits of a well organised health service, so that we have no need to worry about the financial side of having a baby.

From the first month of my pregnancy I was under regular free medical observation. 5 weeks before the birth of my baby and 6 weeks after, I was entitled to a holiday during which I received my full pay at the rate of the average of the last three months.

When the time had come, my husband rang up the ambulance, which arrived five minutes later and brought me to the clinic. (We were lucky in this. It does not always work as well yet.)

I was rather frightened of being treated coldly as "just one more of them" in hospital, which is awful when you are racked with pain and need a bit of friendliness; but the nurses were very understanding and treated us with motherly warmth, as individuals who needed to be cheered up and encouraged.

The hospital was characteristic of present day East Berlin: it was a huge building site. One end was still in construction, while the other end was already buzzing with life: doctors and nurses in shining white overalls—for the most part young people between twenty five and thirty five—were going in and out of the buildings, ambulances were coming and going regularly and from one of the windows came the noise of crying babies.

The clinic I was brought to is one of a row of clean, friendly modern buildings with sunny spacious rooms, with the most up-to-date equipment and surrounded by a large well-kept garden.

INDIVIDUAL CARE

The care we received was, as I said, individual and human, without that horrible differentiation between "paying" and "insurance" patients. There are, of course, still quite a number of people who pay out of their own pockets, but they have no special privileges.

The nurses were really wonderful —cheerful and friendly at all times, although they were for the most part rather overworked because of the general shortage of nurses. That is one of the snags of equal rights for women—they choose other jobs, where the pay and prospects are better. The solution of course is to improve conditions for nurses—and we shall soon get around to doing this.

Every day an officer of the state social service came to visit the clinic. She talked to the patients and asked them whether they had any difficulties with regard to their babies and whether they needed any help.

FRIEND AND HELPER

Quite contrary to the English "hospital almoner" she did not upset the young mothers by asking them all sorts of awkward questions, but visited them as a friend and helper, anxious to relieve them of any worries which might prevent them from concentrating on feeding and tending their babies.

Two days after the birth of my son, they brought in a woman of 42, who had just had her fifth child. She was very weak and the doctor said that she was to stay in the clinic for at least another seven weeks.

'Poor woman,' you might think, 'who was going to look after her family during all those weeks?. She must have been worried!'—Not a bit of it. She was the jolliest of us all. When someone was feeling down in the dumps, she always knew how to make them laugh again.

You see, there is a women's organisation in the German Democratic Republic, the "Democratic Women's Federation," usually called DFD after the German initials of the name.

This DFD not only unites German women in the fight for peace, but is also an organisation of mutual assistance. The woman I am speaking about is a member of the DFD and her group sent a delegation to visit her at the clinic. They brought her lots of flowers and told her that the members of her DFD group were taking it in turns to look after her family in her absence.

When she left the clinic, she did not have to return to work immediately, but took her six weeks confinement leave and in addition her annual holiday. (This, by the way, is also one of the rights of women, laid down in the legislation of our state.)

Oh dear, there I go again, waffling on and on . . . 'She hasn't changed much,' you will think, 'still the old chatterbox!' And yet this is only one tiny bit of what I should like to tell you, there is so much to say!

Your old friend Eva.

(Eva Brueck, young German mother who wrote this letter, lived in Britain, in London and Oxford, from 1938 to 1949. Now she is back in Berlin helping to build a better Germany in which her son can grow up in peace)

Long Range Contest

Pupils of three elementary schools in the Democratic Sector of Berlin have arranged a long-distance competition with schools in China to see which schools can produce the best records for attendance, learning and extra-curricular activities.

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

Subscription rates: 4 German marks, 8/—sterling, $ 1.25 per annum or pro rata, post free.

In Democratic Germany subs. taken at all post offices. Single copies may be purchased at the international newsstands.

British subs. to:
Collet's Subscription Dept.,
40 Great Russell St.,
London W. C. 1

U. S. subs. to:
National Guardian,
17 Murray St.,
New York 7.

All other communications to:
Democratic German Report,
Friedrichstrasse 167 III,
Berlin W 8,
Germany.

All material in this paper may be freely reprinted. Voucher copies of reprints appreciated.

Documents of the Day:

SECOND SOVIET PEACE TREATY NOTE

On April 10th the Soviet government addressed a second note to the western powers calling for the speedy conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany. Main points of the latest Soviet note were:

"In its note of March 10th the Soviet government proposed to the government of the United States and the governments of Great Britain and France to discuss without delay the question of a peace treaty with Germany . . .

"The Soviet government proposed that a peace treaty be drawn up with the direct participation of Germany, as represented by an all-German government . . .

"The urgency of the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany makes necessary the adoption by the governments of the U.S.S.R., the United States, Great Britain and France, of urgent measures for the unification of Germany and for the formation of an all-German government.

Free Elections

"In accordance with this the Soviet government deems it necessary that the governments of the U.S.S.R., the United States, Britain and France discuss without delay the question of holding free all-German elections, as it had already proposed earlier . . .

"As for the proposal that, in view of the forthcoming free all-German elections, the United Nations Commission verify the existence of conditions for such elections, this proposal contradicts the United Nations Charter which, according to Article 107, precludes the interference of the United Nations in German affairs.

"Such verification could be made by a commission formed by the four Powers who exercise control functions in Germany.

"The government of the United States . . . has not expressed agreement to commence discussing this draft and has not proposed its own draft peace treaty.

U. S. Objections

"At the same time the United States government has put forward a number of objections on separate items of the Soviet draft of principles of a peace treaty with Germany, which entails further exchange of notes between the governments and delay in settling disputed issues which could be avoided through direct discussion among the powers.

"Since, however, the note of the United States government of March 25th raises a number of such questions, the Soviet government deems it necessary to dwell on them.

"The Soviet draft on principles of a peace treaty with Germany states: 'Germany undertakes not to enter into any coalitions or military alliances directed against any Power which had participated with its armed forces in the war against Germany.'

"The Soviet government considers that such a proposal conforms to the interests of the Powers discharging occupation functions in Germany as well as to the interests of states neighbouring on her and likewise also to the interests of Germany herself as a peace-loving and democratic state.

"Such a proposal contains no impermissible limitation of the rights of the German state. This proposal, however, precludes also Germany's inclusion into one or another grouping of Powers directed against any peace-loving state.

"The Soviet draft of a peace treaty with Germany states: 'Germany will be permitted to have her own national armed forces (ground, air and naval) necessary for the country's defence.'

"It is well known that the Soviet government also submitted a similar proposal in the draft peace treaty with Japan. Such a proposal conformed with the principle of national sovereignty and equality among states.

No Mercenaries

"It is impossible to conceive a situation in which Japan would have the right to have her own national armed forces for the country's defence while Germany would be deprived of this right and placed in a worse position.

"There can be no doubt that it would be much better for the cause of peace and for the German nation for such military defence forces to be established than to set up in West Germany mercenary troops headed by fascist Hitlerite generals who are ready to plunge Europe into the abyss of a third world war.

"As regards Germany's frontiers, the Soviet government regards as sufficient and final the decisions on this subject taken at the Potsdam conference, which were adopted by the government of the United States and the governments of the U.S.S.R and Great Britain, and to which France subscribed.

"The Soviet government again proposes to the government of the United States to commence, jointly with the governments of Britain and France, to examine a peace treaty with Germany as well as the question of the unification of Germany and the establishment of an all-German government . . .

"It is now that the question has to be decided as to whether Germany is to be established as a united, independent, peace-loving state, part of the family of peace-loving nations in Europe, or whether the partitioning of Germany, involving the danger of war in Europe, shall remain in force."

(A summary of the steps taken to secure German unity and all-German elections during 1950-51 will be found on page 7 of GERMAN REPORT dated February 1st 1952. The Soviet draft proposals for a peace treaty were quoted in the issue of March 14th, and the main points of the western reply were summarised on April 11th.)

WEST BERLIN POLICE CHIEF PRAISES KILLER

The commander of the uniformed West Berlin police has called upon his men to follow the example of Inspector Hermann Zunker, West Berlin policeman who recently killed a railway worker. Full details of the Zunker case were given in GERMAN REPORT dated April 11th.

As that copy of GERMAN REPORT was going to press, Commander Duensing, former nazi major whom the U.S. authorities appointed head of West Berlin uniformed police, circulated the following official letter to his subordinates:

For use in official instruction periods

Subject: Imprisonment of Inspector Zunker.

Inspector Zunker was released from arrest on the evening of March 31st 1952.

The fact may be greeted with particular pleasure that representatives of the parties took steps to obtain this release. Herr Kressman, mayor of Kreuzberg District, has paid particular attention to the Zunker case.

We should note with thanks that city authorities and the judicial authorities show understanding and goodwill towards the uniformed police, who stand in the front ranks of the fight for the preservation of democracy.

In our future actions we shall not forget this fact."

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Many years ago I read a book called "Red Russia with the Mask Off" or something equally lurid. I have forgotten the details of the horror stories with which the book was filled, but one phrase has stuck in my memory. "During the three days which I spent in Soviet Russia . . ." wrote the author.

The phrase came back to me in the past few days when I read a number of articles in the London "Times" and the "New Statesman and Nation".

Easter Egg Ban

First let us have a look at the "Times". Mr Caminada, Berlin correspondent of the "Times," cannot use the excuse that he has only been here three days. He has been in Germany for years and speaks fluent German.

Yet on April 10th he solemnly reported to his newspaper:

"The only jarring detail in the Easter celebrations is the advice given to parents in East Germany not to hide Easter eggs in the garden, as is the custom in Germany, but to put under the bushes ‚well-chosen books."

Now Easter Sunday was a lovely day in Berlin, and I seized the opportunity of visiting a number of friends with small children. The people I visited included a leading Christian Democratic government official, an editor, and a veteran Communist. At each house the child or children were scouring the garden for Easter eggs, according to the old German custom. None of their parents, nor any of the other people I have asked, had heard of the alleged ban on Easter eggs.

Incidentally the story is only a warmed-up version of the allegation which pops up every Christmas that Christmas trees, carols, and so on, have been banned.

Yawning Corn

Two days later, on April 12th, Mr. Caminada really got into his stride, with a long double column article on the leader page of the "Times". This space is traditionally reserved for a measured, authoritative essay on exploration, science or current problems.

Instead of reporting on the complexities of life in the split city of Berlin, the correspondent preferred the corny melodramatic touch in describing a trip to East Berlin:

"Nothing . . . deters anyone from delving into the yawning Leipzigerstrasse, and on to the silence of the Spittelmarkt. The repressive monotony of the scene already belongs to another world, if it be only its dumbly protesting fringe. The stamp of a grinding oppression is inescapable. The faces are set and unsmiling, and people seem to move more quickly than in the west as though impelled by some hidden purpose."

It is difficult to express to my readers outside East Berlin how grotesque these sentences are. I have just tried them out on the postman, who brought my mail a few minutes ago. First he laughed, then he tapped his forefinger against his forehead, and then he got very angry and left the office muttering obscure threats about "blasted journalists who could not write the truth if they tried."

"Hidden Purpose"

The streets mentioned by Mr. Caminada actually are rather grim and oppressive, because they were practically flattened in allied air-raids seven years ago, and are still fringed by ruins. But the "set faces", the "hidden purposes" are just figments of his imagination. In the area which he names at least half the people whom you see on the street are West Berliners both employed and unemployed who have come to East Berlin because they can do their shopping cheaper and better here than in their home districts.

If they have any "hidden purpose" then it is to outwit the West Berlin police who are lying in wait on the other side of the sector border, waiting to confiscate their purchases.

But Mr. Caminada's fairy tales continue. He alleges: "It is estimated that within a year all private commerce will have ceased in East Berlin." He gives no source for the estimate, but the official Five Year Plan of the German Democratic Republic forecasts that by 1955 private shops and small craftsmen will be doing 60 percent more business and selling 60 percent more goods than in 1950. Who is wrong, I wonder?

Worst Correspondent

Intent on keeping the title of "worst-informed correspondent in Berlin", the "Times" man stated on April 15th:

"Leaders of the Communist Youth Movement ordered at the last moment that youths should assist in public reconstruction work this weekend . . ."

Wrong again. To make sure that everybody got a decent Easter holiday the East German authorities ordered that even the voluntary rubble-clearing work in East Berlin, otherwise a top-priority job, should close down over Easter so that no one would be tempted to put in a few volunteer shifts when he might have been sun bathing.

Crawling Spines

If the "Times" had not lied so consistently I should have had more room to deal with R. H. S. Crossman of the London "New Statesman and Nation" who obviously made a "three day trip" to Berlin before reporting on it in the issue dated March 29th.

Mr. Crossman makes our spines crawl with the story of brave Social Democrats who know that "it may cost them their freedom" if they venture into East Berlin with the party badge on.

Now it happens that on the first floor of the office building where GERMAN REPORT is produced, the Social Democratic Party has a local headquarters All day long callers, many with their party badges, come and go, despite the fact that central headquarters for the People's Police in the whole of East Germany is only one hundred yards down the street.

If either Mr. Caminada or Mr. Crossman feel that I have misrepresented them, or if they can bring evidence to show that their stories are in fact true, then GERMAN REPORT will be glad to print a correction.

And if either of the gentlemen would like to see more of the East Sector than the apparently terror-stricken corner which they have hitherto visited, they should give me a ring, and I shall be glad to take them round.

Correction

Having attacked other papers for inexactitude, I must correct a mistake made in Berlin Notebook in the last issue. The appalling incident at the gas-van, reported as having taken place in Ravensbrueck Concentration Camp, actually occurred in Auschwitz Concentration Camp. The mistake arose from the fact that the friend who told me the story had suffered under the nazis in both camps.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet, Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone: 42 62 69. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter der Lizenz-Nr. 752 des Amtes für Information der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.